K-322

ca. 1840-1890

Charley Williams' House

Near Kennedyville

Private

Mamed after its last occupant, Charley Williams' House is now located northeast of Kennedyville on the grounds of Kent Museum, Inc., Kent County's agricultural and rural-life museum near Knock's Folly (K-114) and county-owned Turner's Creek Park. Until the house was moved to the museum in 1974, it was located in Chestertown on a small lot on the southeast side of Court Street Extended that had been created from a long, narrow lot fronting on Queen Street. Until the 1970s it was part of a small black community, with dwellings for ten to twelve families on Church Street and Court Street Extended. Although thought by some to have been a slave quarter dating from about 1840, the history of the development of this part of Chestertown and the use of wire nails in what appears to be original construction suggest a construction date later in the nineteenth century. Whether or not originally a slave quarter, the house is illustrative of the kind of rarely surviving, small, minimal vernacular dwelling that housed much of Chestertown's and Kent County's lower socio-economic stratum. Of frame construction with a gable roof, the building is a one-story-with-loft duplex, with a pair of central approach-side entries. It measures about 16' wide by 14' deep. A front-to-back central partition divides the space into two first-storey rooms; a ladder stair on each side of the partition leads to a single, low loft room on each side. A center chimney vented stoves in each first-storey room.



Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-322

Magi No. 1503224403

DOE __yes __no

1. Nam	(indicate pr	eferred name)		
nistoric	Dr. Minor C.K. Jo	nes Slave Quarter		
and/or common	Charley Williams'	House (preferred)		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	mile northeast of	Rt. 448 (Turner's C Old Shrewsbury Chur		not for publication
city, town Ken	of Kennedyville nedyville	_X_ vicinity of	congressional district	
	vland	county	Kent	
	sification			
Category districtX building(s) structure site object	Ownership publicX private both Public Acquisition in process being considered Xnot applicable	Status occupied _X_ unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	_X museum park private residence religious scientific transportation _X other: Storage
street & number	P.O. Box 41,		telephone n	o.: 348-5421
city, town	Chestertown	state	and zip code Ma	ryland 21620
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Description	n	
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc. Kent	County Courthouse		liber EHP 61
street & number	Cr	coss Street		folio 670
city, town			state	
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	reys
title	Kent County His	storic Sites Inventor	у	
date	August 10, 1981		federal _ <u>X</u> _ sta	te <u>x</u> county loc
_epository for s	_	and Historical Trust,		
city, town	21 Sta	ite Circle	state	Annapolis, MD 214

7. Desi	cription			Survey No.	K-322
Condition — excellent — good _X fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unalteredX altered	Check one original siteX moved date of mo	ove 1 <u>974</u>	

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Named after its last occupant, Charley Williams' House is now located northeast of Kennedyville on the grounds of Kent Museum, Inc., Kent County's agricultural and rural-life museum near Knock's Folly (K-114) and Turner's Creek Park. Until it was moved to the museum in 1974, it was located in Chestertown on a small lot on the southeast side of Court Street Extended that had been created from a long, narrow lot fronting on Queen Street. According to the late Stanley Sutton, who was instrumental in moving the building, the dwelling was built about 1840 and once housed slaves or servants for the Queen Street house on whose lot it once stood. However, the history of the development of this part of Chestertown and the use of some wire nails in what appears to be original construction does not support this early a date. This seems to have been intended to house two families although the last occupancy was single. The frame, gable-roofed, onestory-with-loft structure measures about 16' wide by 14' deep. On the approach side there are four bays: a pair of central doors and a window in each side bay. The gable ends have a central first-story window and a loft window above. There are no rear openings. On the interior a partition wall from between the front doors to the rear wall divides the space approximately equally; there is a door opening in the partition wall. Along the partition wall at the rear on each side is a ladder stair to the loft, which is also divided into two rooms. A central square chimney for stoves served both halves of the building.

The house was moved when threatened by demolition to allow the building of a pair of new office buildings with a parking lot between them on Court Street Extended in Chestertown. It was located in the part of the present parking lot that is immediately northeast of the office building built closest to Church Alley. The side with the two entries faced in the direction of Church Alley, and a gable-end faced Court Street Extended. At the time of the move the building was quite dilapidated, necessitating repairs and replacements after the move to the Kent Museum grounds.

Originally probably entirely weatherboarded on the exterior, the rear of the building is now covered with unpainted coursed wooden shingles, except for three lower courses of lapped horizontal weatherboard. The approach side and gable ends are of weatherboard, with 6" exposure. Much if not all is replacement material. The building rests on concrete block and brick piers. The square chimney was removed above the roof line for repairs after the move and then rebuilt for a distance of three courses above the ridge. A round clay flue liner is in place. Brown asphalt shingles now cover the roof.

(CONTINUED)

Period preh 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900			landscape architectur law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation X other (specify)
Specific	dates	Builder/Architect		
check:	Applicable Criteria:A and/or Applicable Exception:A Level of Significance:	BCD	EFG local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and

K - 322

Survey No.

Whether or not Charley's House was ever a slave quarter, it is indicative of the kind of minimal vernacular housing once commonly used in Chestertown and Kent County for housing the lower socio-economic stratum of Kent County. Most dwellings of this type have vanished because of deterioration and as occupants were able to afford and move to more spacious quarters.

Charley's House is the last surviving dwelling of the now-vanished small black community that lined both sides of what is now called Court Street Extended. Most of the buildings were removed in the 1960s. Although it is possible that this community began with rear-lot dwellings for slaves or servants of the families that lived in the main dwellings on the northwest side of Queen Street, it is also possible that development did not begin here until the removal of the old walled Chestertown cemetery ca. 1882, when the new jail was built. The use of wire nails in what seems to be some of the original construction of Charley's House also suggests that the dwelling dates from later in the nineteenth century.

The old cemetery, to the northeast of the courthouse, extended from Cross Street to as far southeast as the southeast street line of the original Court Street. On the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas map of Chestertown, Court Street is shown without its later extension. At the street's end lay part of the cemetery grounds, and one had to turn right onto Church Street. The cemetery extended to the back lot lines of lots fronting on Queen Street, which may indeed in 1877 have had small outbuildings not shown on the map.

8. Significance

support.

9. Major Bibliographical References su

Survey No. K- 322

10. Ge	ographical Data		
Quadrangle nam	edo NOT complete UTM refer		Quadrangle scale
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C		D	
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

shingles, except for three lower courses of lapped horizontal weatherboard. The approach side and gable ends are of weatherboard, with 6" exposure. Much if not all is replacement material. The building rests on concrete block and brick piers. The square chimney was removed above the roof line for repairs after the move and then rebuilt for a distance of three courses above the ridge. A round clay flue liner is in place. Brown asphalt shingles now cover the roof.

The pair of entry doors is now under a new plain asphalt-shingled canopy with upward bracing to the wall. Simple open wooden steps on concrete blocks lead to the entries. Doors with 2-over-2 panels are in both door openings but are not constructed exactly the same. One door is painted brown, the other blue. The left door appears older but appears to be reused from elsewhere; it is two inches short of reaching the sill. There is no door trim; the jamb reveal edges are simply beaded.

The windows are double-hung with quite large 6-over-6 lights. Sash all appear to have been replaced, though at least the first-storey frames seem to be original and with the same beaded jambs. The loft windows are unusually large, almost from floor to rafters, but old photographs show large loft window openings before rehabilitation, even though they themselves may not be original. Plain recent 3-1/2" trim has been used at the loft windows. New board-and-batten shutters are kept closed over the first-storey windows; old hinge mortises can be seen.

There is a plain, small box cornice recently recovered and recent flush verge boards on the gable ends.

The interior is now used for storage, especially of old building parts; there is some debris. The center chimney, ca. 18" square, projects ca. ?" into each of the first-storey rooms; there is a stove hole for each room. Constructed off soft, salmon-colored bricks now quite deteriorated, the chimney has been parged and painted. The first-storey ceiling is covered with sheet composition material; headroom is 7'2". Various materials cover the interior walls, including a soft sheet composition material and linoleum. Some wall surfaces have been painted or wallpapered. Old lath and plaster marks can be seen on the study where the wall covering is gone. The study measure 3" by 4" and are about 22-24" on center. On the gable ends they rise from the sill below the first-storey floor to the roof. There has been much piecing and shimming in the opened area. Circular saw marks are visible on a stud adjacent to one first-storey end window. Window and door trim is plain, measuring 2-5/8" and 2-3/4" respectively. There is no door in the partition opening between rooms, just jamb trim.

That the original floor of the left first-storey room was of medium-width random boards can be seen from the crawl space. A later second floor of narrow tongue-and-groove boards has been added. The

right room appears to have only a single floor of the narrow tongue-and-groove material.

The ca. 20" wide ladder stair in the left room appears original. The treads are within a closed stringer and on ledgers for reinforcement. Wire nails have been used here. The stair was later closed on the underside, with random-width boards. The similar stair in the right room has been covered on the underside with plywood.

There are no knee walls in the loft. The loft ceiling has been covered with horizontal boards, some of which in the left room show old whitewash and later grey paint. There have been replacements. The right loft room also has a board ceiling, which seems extensively reworked. Between the two loft rooms to the front of the chimney is a horizontal board wall, with a board and batten door angle-cut for the roof slope. Some of the door boards appear to be reused. There is headroom sufficient for standing only under the ridge.

Many of the first-storey joists are replacements, evidently installed at the time of the move. Older ones still remaining, though termite-eaten or rotted, measure 2" x 8", not a usual middle-nineteenth-century joist measurement.

Charley's House is now located in the southeastern portion of the Kent Museum property with the approach facade facing northwest. It is near a steep wooded bank of a tributary of Turner's Creek to the east/southest. Near the house to the west/northwest is an old 1-1/2 storey frame house (K-184) used as a store into the 1940s that was moved from the village of Chesterville when the state highway department wanted to demolish it to enlarge the intersection at which it stood. There is also a small, moved farm outbuilding. The original intention for this part of the museum grounds was for an outdoor museum village to preserve and illustrate various types of vernacular Kent County buildings. This plan has yet to come to fruition.

Martenet's 1860 map of Kent County, with a detail map of Chestertown, shows only two dwellings between the Methodist Protestant parsonage at the corner of Maple Avenue (then Fish or Bridge Street) and Church Street, one or both owned by Col. J. Wickes. No buildings are shown at the rear (secondary buildings are not shown elsewhere either), and there is no extension of Court Street, which still would have been within the cemetery perimeter. If Charley's House were a slave quarter and in place by 1860, it would have been part of the properties of one or the other of those two Queen Street dwellings. Across the cemetery to the north and northeast, at Fish Street and Cross Street there were five dwellings shown whose owners or occupants were designated as "colored."

By 1877, with the cemetery still present, there were more dwellings on the northwest side of Queen Street. One of them, next to the house now known as the Greenwood House (K-336), belonged to a Mrs. Anderson and had a small second building on the lot, but at the front of the lot adjacent to the main building. The nature of this small building is not known, but it may later have been moved to the rear. By 1877 there were also additional "colored" dwellings (with no designations) on Bridge Street between Cross Street and Queen Street. It seems most likely that the development of housing for blacks along both sides of Court Street Extended took place in the 1880s and thereafter. The county evidently sold some of the old cemetery land (the far northeastern portion), and commercial buildings, such as a repair garage with numerous buildings, came to be located there.

The Bicentennial re-issue of the 1877 atlases of the Eastern Shore includes a copy of the 1885 Sanborn Company insurance map, but unfortunately not including the sheet for this part of Court Street Extended. The street is shown as extended to the northeast beyond its original terminus, however. The 1903 Sanborn map shows this area as developed.

The black community eventually stretched around the corner onto Church Street, with black ownership or occupancy of several houses there that lasted until the 1970s and 1980s. There were black tenants, in several apartments, in the eighteenth-century Geddes-Piper House, now the headquarters of the Historical Society of Kent County. According to Percy Johnson, the last black homeowner on Church Street, who had lived in the neighborhood from after World War II until about 1981 or 1982, vacanate, there were ten to twelve families in the community. As he remembers it, the house he first lived in on Court Street Extended (several buildings to the northeast of the location of Charley's House) was a small frame house with a living room downstairs, two bedrooms upstairs, and a lean-to kitchen. also several duplexes. On the northwest side of Court Street Extended there was a barn in back of the Cross Street garage that had been converted to house two families. This kind of community development was typical of southern towns and cities, where there were numerous small black communities scattered among white neighborhoods, in

contrast to northern towns and cities, where residential areas were more rigidly segregated.

Charley's House may have been to the rear of the house at 1161 Queen Street.

Small, inexpensive vernacular dwellings (which could just as well be called folk housing) such as Charley's House were once quite numerous both in Chestertown and throughout Kent County. For various reasons, most of them have not survived. One surviving notably similar structure is the small frame nineteenth-century dwelling moved by 1920 to a location well to the rear of the house at Federal Hill Farm (K-632) near Sassafras; presumably it came from another location on the farm, where it very likely housed a black farm worker and his family. It was used during the second quarter of the twentieth century to house seasonal farm help. Except for the fact that it was not a duplex, it is strikingly similar to Charley's House. It has one room on the first storey, a square chimney for a stove, and a ladder stair to a loft.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME				
HISTORIC	"Charley's House"			
AND/OR COMMO				
	Dr. Minor Carter Slave	Quarter		
LOCATION	ON			
STREET & NUMB	ER 2000' N.E. of the inter	section of Shrewsb	ury Church Road and	Md. Rt. 448
CITY, TOWN	Turner's Creek			
STATE	_	VICINITY OF	COUNTY	
	Maryland			
CLASSIF	ICATION			
CATEGOR	RY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	\underline{X}_{MUSEUM}
X_BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	80TH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN
S!TE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		_NO	MILITARY	OTHER
OWNER	OF PROPERTY			
NAME	Kent Museum, Inc. attn	n: Jay Silcox	Telephone #:	778-2238
NAME STREET & NUMB	Kent Museum, Inc. attn	ı: Jay Silcox	relephone #:	
NAME	Kent Museum, Inc. attn	a: Jay Silcox	rerephone #:	778-2238 ip ₁₆₂₀ de
NAME STREET & NUMB	Kent Museum, Inc. attn	vicinity of RIPTION	Telephone #: STATE, Z Maryland	
NAME STREET & NUMB	Kent Museum, Inc. attn	vicinity of RIPTION	Maryland Liber #: 61	
STREET & NUMB C TOWN LOCATI	Kent Museum, Inc. attn EA P. O. Box 41 Chestertown ON OF LEGAL DESC Office of the C	vicinity of RIPTION	Telephone #: STATE, Z Maryland	
STREET & NUMB C TOWN LOCATI COURTHOUSE	Kent Museum, Inc. attn EA P. O. Box 41 Chestertown ON OF LEGAL DESC Office of the C	vicinity of RIPTION County Clerk	Maryland Liber #: 61	
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K-322

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT X.GOOD

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED

_ORIGINAL SITE

X_MOVED DATE 1975

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Charley's House" is located approximately 2000 feet northeast of the intersection of Shrewsbury Church Lane and Maryland Route 448, rear Turner's Creek, Kent County, Maryland. The house was originally located on Court Street (extended) in Chestertown, Maryland. Maps showing its original location, and location after its move, are attached.

According to then President Stanley B. Sutton of the Kent Museum, Inc., the 1 story tall frame structure with sleeping loft was erected circa 1840. The building measures approximately 16' X 14'. The attached photograph shows the house before restoration. The attached drawing by James A. Caufield shows the cabin, as restored.

In 1974, the building was moved to its present location by the firm of Expert Movers, Inc. of Sharptown, Maryland, and restored as part of an open air museum which also includes Knock's Folly (Janvier House), site K-114.

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1840 BUILDER/ARCHITECT				
X 1800-1899 1900-	COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	TRANSPORTATION X_OTHER(SPECIFY) Black History
1600-1699 1700-1799	X_ARCHITECTUREART	EDUCATIONENGINEERING	MILITARY MUSIC	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN _THEATER
1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
.PREHISTORIC 1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURELAW	RELIGION SCIENCE
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Charley's House" represents a good example of a circa 1840 slave quarter which was originally located in Chestertown, Maryland. When plans to construct new offices in Court Street called for the demolition of the structure, Kent Museum, Inc. suggested its move to Turner's Creek, 11.5 miles outside of Chestertown.

The building was moved by the firm of Expert House Movers, Inc., of Sharptown, assisted by a \$1000 grant from the Maryland Historical Trust in 1974. In 1975, an easement was executed and is now held by the Trust. As originally envisioned, the building was to be restored by Kent Museum members as part of a restored Turner's Creek village, which was to include old Kent County houses of various types and periods. The building has been restored and is now used as an exhibit building. (See photographs attached to Maryland Historical Trust easement inspection report, dated 7/2/81, for building as restored).

CONTINUE ON	SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY		
10 GEOGRAPHI	CAL DATA		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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ORGANIZATION	March 1 1 Miles to 1 March	DATE	A 10 1001
STREET & NUMBER	Maryland Historical Trust	TELEPHON	August 10, 1981
	21 State Circle, Shaw House		269 - 2438
CITY OR TOWN	TA DESTU CLE CALL CALCA MONOR	STATE	
	Annapolis, Maryland		21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 131 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

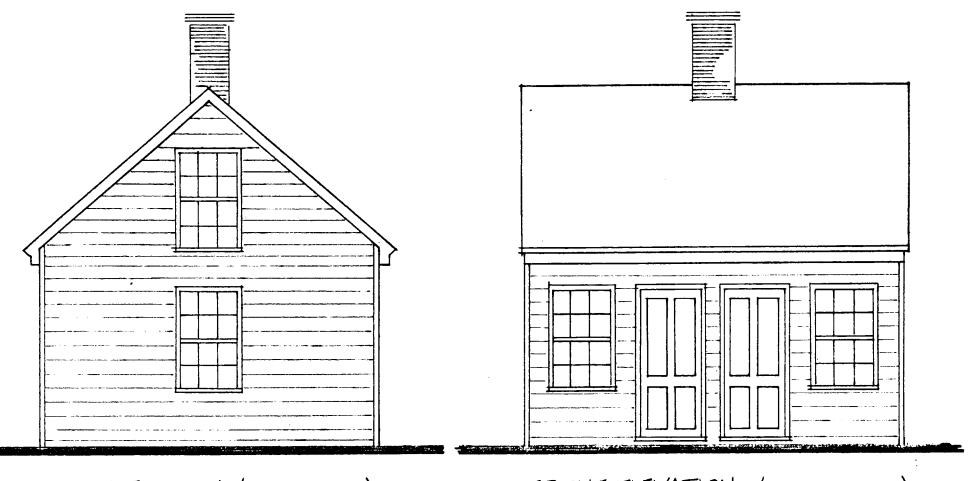
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

1

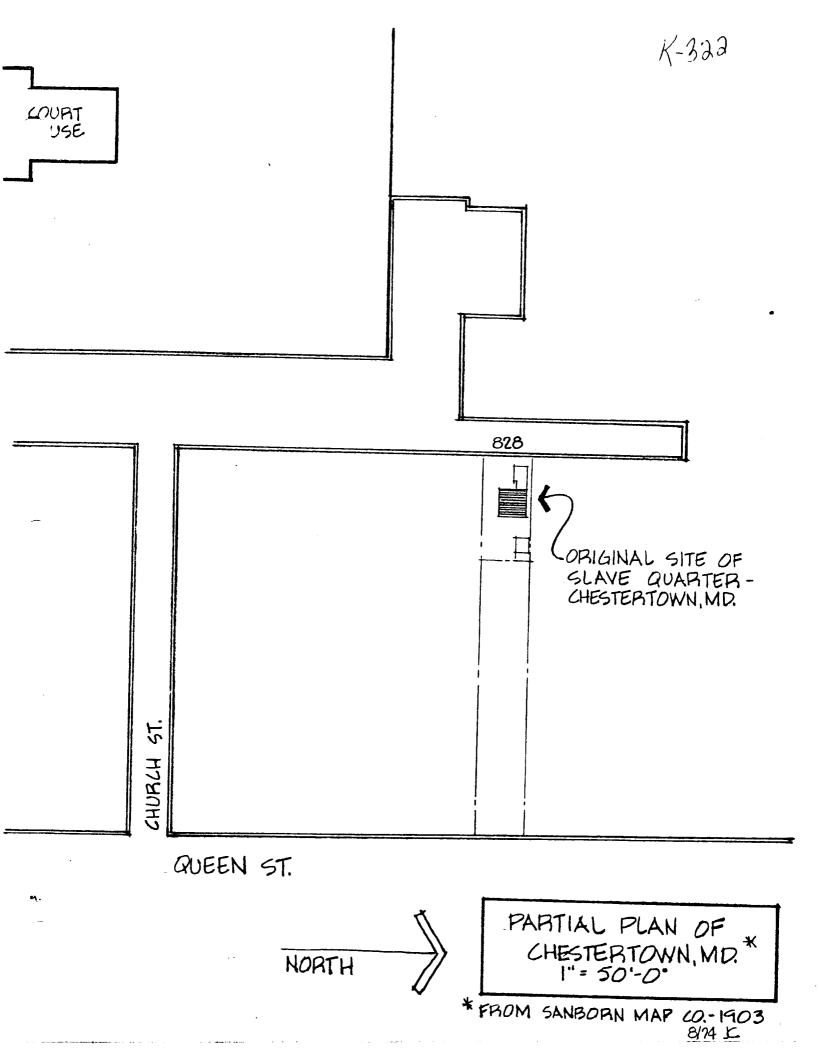


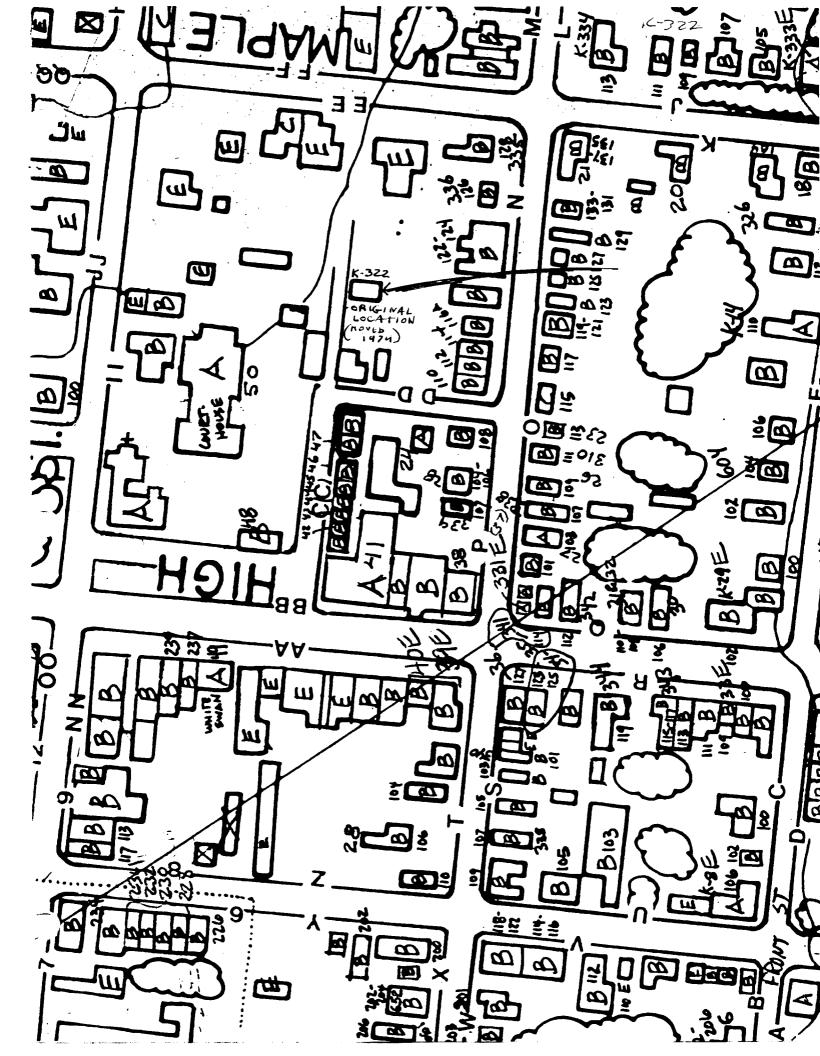
SIDE ELEVATION (CALLED EAST)

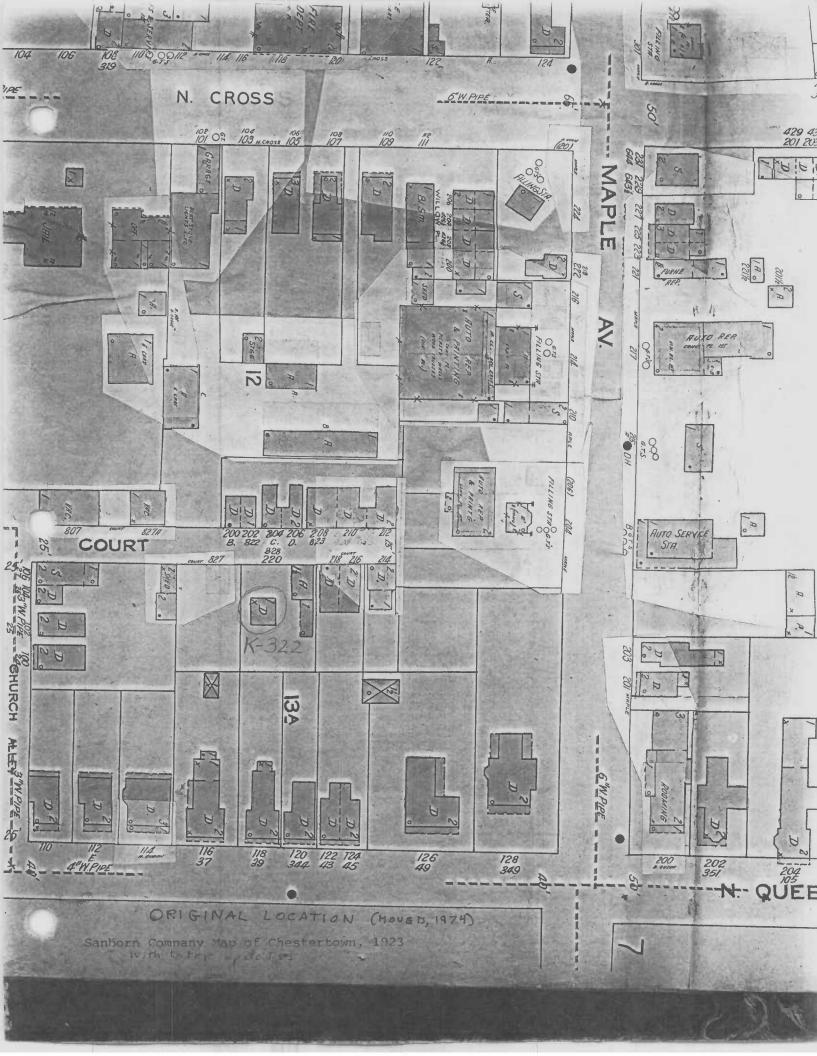
FRONT ELEVATION (CALLED NORTH)

SLAVE QUARTER SLEVATIONS

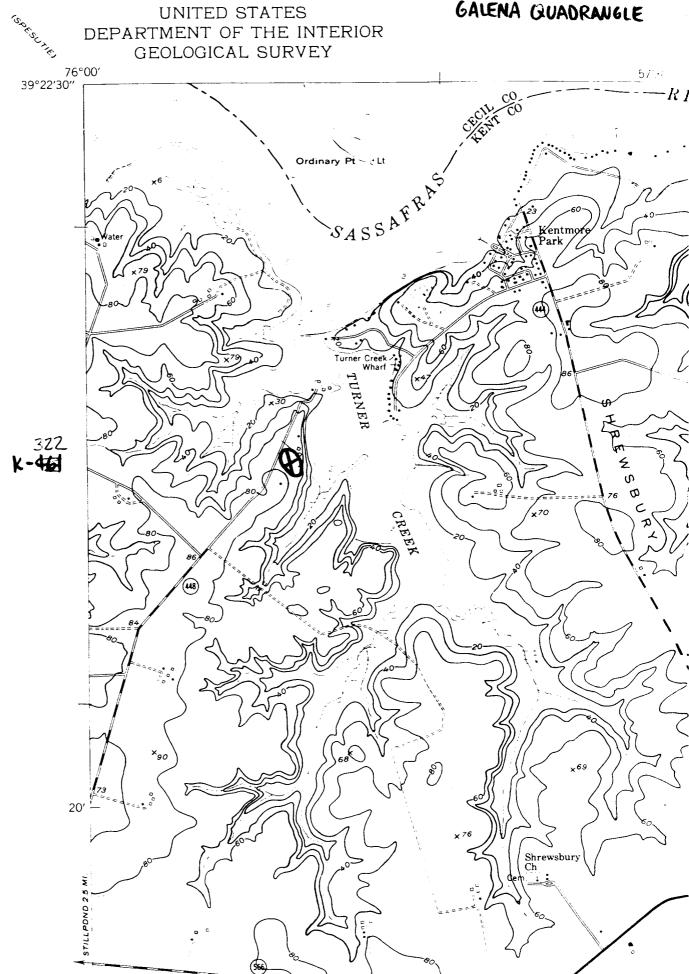
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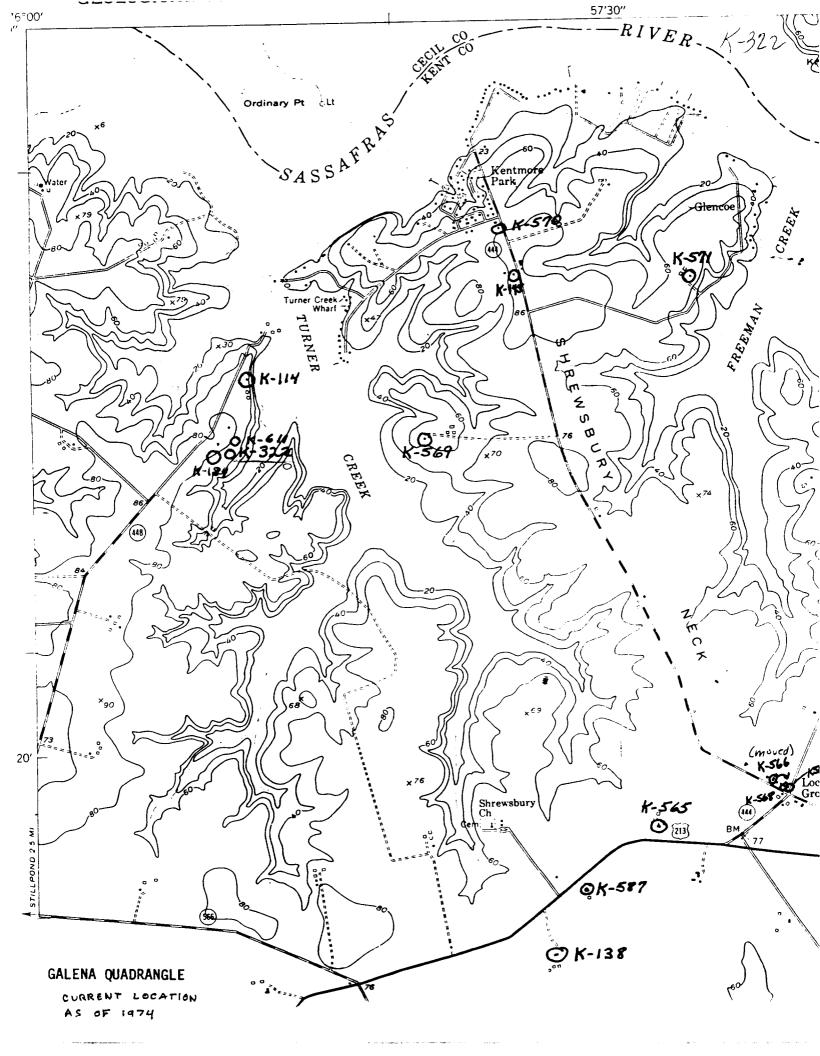






UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY







K-322

Charley's House at Kent Museum Turner's Creek Rd., near Kennedyville M. Q. Fallaw - 1/17/86 View to northeast



K-322 Charley's House at Kent Museum Turner's Creek Rd., near Kennedyville M. Q. Fallaw - 1/17/86 View to southwest





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K-322 "CHARLEY'S HOUSE" (PR. MINOR CARTER SLAVE QUARTER)